

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of May 8, 2006**

1. **Firestation Meeting:** The meeting will be held on Thursday, May 18, 7:30pm at the Lilac Room of the Community Center. Montgomery County will present final drawings of the streetscape and sidewalk design for the front of the firestation. *(Public Works)*

2. **Dialogue on Pedestrian Safety Solutions - May 16 (City-wide):** The City of Takoma Park's Safe Roadways Committee and the Montgomery County Pedestrian Safety Committee will be co-sponsoring a community dialogue on a variety of pedestrian safety issues at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, May 16 in the Takoma Park Community Center auditorium. The discussion is open to the public and will provide residents and officials with an opportunity to learn about some of the safety challenges faced by the community, get information on current and proposed initiatives, and hear the results of the recent walkable communities report. *(Housing and Community Development)*

3. **Traffic Calming:** A mock up of traffic circles at Lincoln & Elm and Lincoln & Auburn has been set up for neighborhood review. The previous two weeks had the model of extended curbs; the next two weeks will model traffic circles. *(Public Works)*

4. **Ceremony at Toatley-Fraser Park:** The Mayor and Capt. Coursey will attend a wreath-laying by the Maryland State Police at Toatley-Fraser Park on Eastridge on Saturday, at about 5 p.m. The troopers will visit the park in memory of Cpl. Edward Toatley who was killed by a suspect while investigating drug crimes in this and adjacent communities. That evening, officers will attend the Candlelight Vigil at the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C., as the start of National Police Week. *(Police)*

5. **Preparing for Disaster - Outreach to Tenants (City-wide):** Landlord-Tenant staff will be actively working with the Emergency Preparedness Committee to help distribute Emergency Preparedness information to local renters. Buddy Daniels, a member of the Committee, met with staff this week to review the "Preparing for Disaster" FEMA handbook which will be available in English, Spanish and French. Plans are underway to include the Tenant Capacity Building organizers in this effort. Anyone interested in becoming more involved with the distribution of this information should call 301.891.7222. *(Housing and Community Development)*

6. **Tenant Capacity Building Program (Ward 2):** The residents of 701-03 Ethan Allen have formed a tenants association following notification that the 21 unit property was being sold. There is currently a third party contract in place with a sales price of \$1,858,100. The tenants have indicated they will be sending a letter of interest to the owner and will be investigating their options to purchase and/or partner with a developer. *(Housing and Community Development)*

7. **Street Restoration (Ward 1):** Work continues on Spruce Avenue next week. (*Public Works*)

8. **Traffic Enforcement (Wards 2 & 5):** Traffic enforcement this week focused primarily on major thoroughfares including University Blvd., New Hampshire, Maple, Carroll, Flower, and Piney Branch. Among arrests in the past week are: a citation to a male juvenile for possession of alcohol under 21 on Flower Avenue (Ward 5), an adult male for possession and intent to distribute drugs (marijuana) at Hwy 410 and New Hampshire (Ward 2); several adult arrests for drug possession (cocaine) on Houston Court (Ward 5). (*Police*)

9. **Community Empowerment (City-wide):** IMPACT Silver Spring, a non-profit organization devoted to empowering individuals and groups so they can create positive change within their community is seeking renters in the Silver Spring and Takoma Park area to join their next training session. For further information, call IMPACT Silver Spring at (301) 495-3336 or attend their Open House on Thursday, June 1, 2006 from 6 - 8pm. The IMPACT Silver Spring office is located at 1313 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland. There is a parking garage under the building. SHCD staff is working with IMPACT Silver Spring to promote the participation of local tenants in the program and assist in reviewing applications. (*Housing and Community Development*)

10. **Meeting Coverage:** Due to construction issues, the network was down in the Auditorium for the May 8th meeting, so although a live stream of the meeting was available on the web, the archived copy of the meeting was not available until later in the week. (*City TV*)

11. **May Activities:** City TV staff have a busy month covering many activities. Sunday, May 7, camera crews attended the House & Garden Tour and the Soap Box Derby. Monday was a return to Council meetings in the Auditorium. (*City TV*)

12. **Azalea Awards:** City TV staff will be covering the Azalea Awards on Saturday, May 13th. Plans are to cablecast this event live on City TV 13 and stream it live on the website. (*City TV*)

13. **Shift Changes:** Shift change will occur this weekend. Squads 1 and 3 (Sgt. Bowers and Frishkorn) will move to the night shift (8 p.m. to 8 a.m.), with Squads 2 and 4 (Sgt. Hammond and Skibicki) going to the day shift. This schedule will continue through June 25, which should be kept in mind when trying to reach officers on these teams. (*Police*)

14. **The Acting Chief:** Capt. Coursey attended the Montgomery County Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee meeting, an information exchange group sponsored by the County Office of Homeland Security. He and Lt. Cipperly attended the Montgomery County Fallen Heroes ceremony. On Saturday, he will lead a delegation of officers attending the funeral of a Fairfax County detective killed Monday. (*Police*)

15. Clean Up Day in Old Takoma (Ward 1 and 3): The Main Street Design Committee's first "clean-up" held this past Saturday was a success. Roughly thirty volunteers helped tear down flyers, pick up trash, mulch tree pits, plant, and otherwise spruce up the area. HCD staff assisted in the coordination of this event. *(Housing and Community Development)*

16. Poetry Reading - Open Reading (City-wide): Don Berger, Takoma Park Poet Laureate, and the Arts and Humanities Commission will be hosting an open reading of poetry on Thursday, May 18 at 7:00 pm in the Takoma Park Community Center. If you write poetry, please join us. We would love to hear your work. The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, please contact the Arts and Humanities Commission at ahc@takomagov.org or 301.891.7224. *(Housing and Community Development)*